

Uniform subsidy for fertilizer plants

2179. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 638, given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for fixing an uniform subsidy rate for all fertilizer manufacturing plants; and

(b) if so, since when and the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Invention of new medicines from herbs

2180. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Ministry to discover or invent new medicines from traditional herbs in our country;

(b) whether there is any plan to establish new R&D institutions for this purpose in the near future; and

(c) whether there is any plan to tap the herbs which are traditionally used as medicines in North-Eastern States and to establish an R&D institution in the area for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Research and Development (R&D) in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is focused towards

(i) authenticating and standardizing existing traditional preparations;

(ii) developing new herbal preparations for therapeutic purposes; and

(iii) searching for new single or concoction of a few molecules for specific disease of great importance to India and to the World. Towards this end CSIR has set up a networked programme involving several of its laboratories and the vast reservoir of traditional knowledge represented by three traditional systems of medicine, namely, Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha. CSIR is thus taping the available medicinal plant resources from all over the country including that from North East.

The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, the Central Council for Research in Unani medicine, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy are engaged in research including drugs development. These councils have their units in several States in the country, including North Eastern States. These councils are also engaged in ethno-botanical survey of medicinal plants and folklore medicines.

Namrup unit of HFC

2181. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest decision on revamping and bifurcation of Namrup Unit of HFC; and

(b) what positive steps have been taken to revise pay scale of workers of Namrup Unit of HFC, its only urea producing unit, to motivate them for higher productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The rehabilitation proposal for Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) including bifurcation of its Namrup Unit into a separate corporate entity is to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government and thereafter for sanction of the Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The Government have already approved the revamp of the Namrup Units of HFC at a cost of Rs. 350 crore, which is under implementation.